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RIVALRY RENEWAL

The Eastern football prepares to open its season against Western Illinois Thursday.

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STUDENT SENATE

The Student Senate elected new members during its first meeting of the fall 2015 semester

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 100 | NO. 10

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

1915-2015

WWW.DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM

Text alert system working normally

By Roberto Hodge
News Editor | @DEN_News

Vendor system issues with Eastern's emergency text and email notifications have been resolved by the ITS staff.

The system error prevented notifications from being delivered.

Daniel Nadler, the vice president for student affairs, said the notification system has a siren and public address that is tested every first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

A phone tree notifies individuals about emergencies so that information can be posted for the public through radio and television announcements, which would send notifications from this system.

Nadler said if an error were to occur during an actual emergency they have personnel who could send a mass message manually.

Roberto Hodge can be reached at 581-282 or rhodge@eiu.edu.

Zhao gives sister city conference

By Cassie Buchman
Administration Editor | @cjbuchman

As a consulate in Chicago, Weiping Zhao covers nine states mainly in the Midwest, such as Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri.

His purpose for visiting Eastern is to get to know what kind of plans with China the university has, and what assistance they need from the consulate as well as exchanging ideas with faculty and students.

The city of Urbana established a sister city relationship with the Guangzhou province of China several years ago.

"There are hundreds of American cities that have established sister city relationships with Chinese cities," he said. "We do believe it's a very good mechanism for the cities in our respective countries to conduct the exchange and cooperation in various areas."

Zhao said the mayor of Urbana led a delegation to Guangzhou, and had a good visit there when she promoted Urbana to China.

He said because the University of Illinois was based in Urbana, he did believe there is much room to corroborate.

The delegation from Guangzhou will also visit Eastern.

"Although the sister city relationship is between Urbana and Guangzhou, I do believe neighboring areas will also benefit from such a sister city relationship," Zhou said.

Cassie Buchman can be reached at 581-2812 or cjbuchman@eiu.edu



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Asian studies coordinator Jinhee Lee poses a question to visiting Chinese Consul General Zhao Weiping.

Consul talks US, China relations

By Cassie Buchman
Administration Editor | @cjbuchman

The Chinese Consul General in Chicago, Weiping Zhao, gave a lecture on relations between the United States and China Wednesday in Buzzard Auditorium.

The lecture was followed by a question and answer session between Zhao and the audience.

Zhao said many positive things were happening in the bilateral relations between China and the United States.

"It is not easy for people to find good stories on Chinese cooperation in the U.S. media," Zhao said. "On the contrary, the media always focus on the negative aspects of the relationship. People will not be able to develop a balanced view on Chinese relations if they rely on the media as their only source of information and don't use their own judgment."

Zhao said China's economy will continue to grow at a relatively high speed which will provide a lasting driving force for further expansion and cooperation between the two countries.

"Recently, there has been too much pessimistic media coverage on China's economy," he said. "Most media report and commentaries have exaggerated the problems in the Chinese economy. Although China's economic growth has been slowing down since 2012, the slowdown itself has been slow and manageable."

For the first half of this year, China has achieved a gross rate of 7 percent.

Zhao said this is well in line with the government's target for this year's economic growth.

He said the employment situation is good and the inflation rate is low.

"The Chinese Government has full confidence in achieving the set of goals for this year's economic growth, because there are still many policy instruments at their disposal, and the government still has strong financial capability," Zhao said. "One thing's for sure. There will be a bottom line for the slowdown of China's economic growth. The Chinese government is determined to stop the economy from running out



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern president David Glassman exchanges a handshake with Chinese Consul General Zhao Weiping as Zhao takes the podium during a presentation on Wednesday in the Buzzard Hall

of control."

Although some in the media have stated that China is devaluing its currency to save the economy, Zhao said China does not see the purpose of devaluing its currency.

"China's economy is still safe, and there is no need to save it in the first place," he said.

A lot of the topics Zhao touched upon were about clearing up some ideas about Chinese and U.S. relations that the media got wrong.

"Some of the media, in my view, are indeed not professional enough," Zhao said. "They have gone so far as to blame China for all the problems in the global economy today. They blame China for the drop of the stock markets here and in the world, and they also blame China for the drop of oil prices essentially."

He said China is firmly committed to peace-

ful development in the bilateral relationship with the United States.

"The purpose of our development is to rejuvenate the Chinese nation and ensure a better life for the Chinese people," Zhao said. "The purpose of our development is not to challenge America or any other country."

China has suffered from military invasions, which is why Zhao said they understand the value of peace.


A few people questioned the Consul General's views on different matters involving China.

History Professor Jinhee Lee said there were students interested in learning about the Chinese culture.


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Local weather

THURSDAY FRIDAY



Sunny
High: 90°
Low: 69°



Partly Cloudy
High: 91°
Low: 69°

For more weather visit dailyeasternnews.com

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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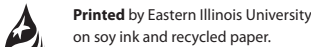
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CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kendel Fields, a senior health studies major, leads a discussion on surviving college during the Alpha Phi Alpha Welcome Back Forum on Wednesday in the auditorium of Coleman Hall.

Forum advises students on college issues

T’Nerra Butler
Multicultural Editor

Members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity brought students together and elaborated what it takes to make it through college in the “Welcome Back” forum Wednesday at Coleman Auditorium.

Kendall Fields, the organization’s historian, opened the forum to audience members asking a series of personal questions.

Tiyaji Williams, a junior communication studies major, answered the question of why she was in college.

“I’m in college so that I’m not a statistic,” Williams said.

Williams also said students have the responsibility of accepting the people around them. She said an important thing is to know everyone is different and students should accept

themselves as individuals.

“Accepting everyone is different is huge, and we need to socialize more because we are the future,” Williams said.

Another topic the forum touched on was how students should present themselves while on campus.

Farrah Dean, a junior pre-med major, said the company you keep could make a difference in how outsiders perceive you.

“You want people to see you for who you are and not for who you hang around,” Dean said.

Dejah Dade, a sophomore theater major, said she had to learn how to separate herself from different things upon coming to college.

“I had to block people out and I had to start making my own decisions,” Dade said.

Dade said she came to college to

pursue a career in theater arts and take care of her loved ones. Dade said she is one of the first in her family to attend college also.

Ellis Dudley, a senior accounting major, said open dialogues are important to teach students balance and helps set them up to succeed in college. He said the ultimate goal is to take the edge off students.

“Learning to delay pleasure will teach you discipline and wisdom,” Dudley said. “Get out of your comfort zone, and don’t do what you would do at home, because there is a difference.”

Dudley said students are often invested in social networks and are missing the physical networking portion of college.

“A lot of people miss the interaction part of college, because it’s not just books and work, it’s an experi-

ence,” Dudley said.

Fields also lead a trivia game, asking students a series of questions. In the games, the audience found one in three students return to college after their freshman year.

Fields said he remains focused on the reasons why he came to college, and started joining registered student organizations to become well rounded. He said students should join different RSO’s on campus, but should not bombard themselves with too many leadership roles.

“It’s important to have these talk with students, from freshmen to upperclassmen,” Fields said. “It’s good to remind them of the reason they’re in college, and how to maneuver though college and persevere.”

T’Nerra Butler can be reached at 581-2812 or tabutler@eiu.edu

High School to host 'Grill on the Hill' event

By Mackenzie Freund
City Editor | mgfreund_news

The Charleston Booster Club is hosting their annual Grill on the Hill fundraising event at 4 p.m., at the Trojan Hill and Charleston Middle School, Friday.

Grill on the Hill is meant to raise money for the Charleston High School athletics department.

Jodi Hildebrandt, a booster club director, said the club has changed the event so it occurs before kickoff on the day of the first home game.

Hildebrandt said the grill is a time for people to come and have fun and

eat before going to the first football game of the season.

“Everyone’s excited about it and getting outside and they’re seeing all their friends,” Hildebrandt said.

The booster club has been planning this event for about a year, Hildebrandt said.

Some of the Charleston High School clubs and sports teams are planning on selling spirit items to help with some of the fundraising.

She said there would be volunteers grilling pork burgers and hot dogs would also sold during the event.

Hildebrandt said Subway donated cookies, Freddy’s Custard donated ice

cream and Hawaiian ice would also be available for people to enjoy.

The booster club even set up a food drive-thru service by the middle school for people who were unable to stay for the game.

Hildebrandt said she has been going to the fundraising event since she moved here in 1987.

She said the event would include a dunk tank at the fundraiser where attendees can dunk some of the high school teachers and the principal.

Hildebrandt said the booster club puts on this fundraising event as well as one during the basketball

season.

The Trojan Booster Club was founded in 1974 and has been focusing on raising money for athletics for the Charleston school districts.

The event was originally called the Red and Gold Barbecue and has become a tradition for the booster club.

The fundraising event originally was on a Saturday and was a time for people to come, eat food and watch the football team scrimmage.

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September 3rd, 2015

What’s Happening on Campus?

30 Minute Resumes | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Reservations Required! Call 217-581-2412 for more information.

Rubber Lovers | 7:00 - 8:00 PM Coleman Hall
Free. Interactive and fun lessons on the basics of safer sex.

Hello Dali | 9:00 PM Coleman Lecture Hall
Improviseational comedy group. All material provided from the audience.

Check out more upcoming events at www.eiu.edu/eiu360/

Mills presents art inspired by Roman catacombs

By Meka Al Taqi-Brown
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Thomas Lyon Mills, an instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design, gave a presentation Wednesday to explain an art exhibit inspired by the sacred catacombs of Rome, which already opened on Aug. 29th, at the Tarble Arts Center.

Ancient Romans made the catacombs as caves were used as places for religious practices and burial sites.

He managed to attain special permission to visit these ancient sites to create the work of art, featured not only in his presentation, but in his exhibition as well.

Mills said he visited more than 50 different catacombs, taking notes in all of them, along with sketches of some cave drawings he saw.

His presentation included a discussion about his experiences in the catacombs, and showing the viewers some of the art he had created while down there.

Mills said while in the catacombs he was overwhelmed by the emotion he felt within the catacombs.

“There were unseen forces flooding toward me,” Mills said. “I’m almost overwhelmed.”

These experiences helped him with his inspiration when creating his artwork.

When creating his work, he used different types of paint such as watercolor, acrylic and oil paint. He also did sketches as well.

Mills spent a lot of time in the catacombs pursuing his passion.

“I would stay longer if I had the strength,” Mills said.

Some of the artwork included paintings of the caves that he sat in, ancient drawing and sculptures.

He received some of his inspiration from looking into the caves and adding his personal touch to the paintings.

Nick Eckmayer, a junior art major, said he



Thomas Lyon Mills, an artist and an instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design, retrieves his slides after his art lecture on Wednesday at the Tarble Arts Center.

had a feeling about Mills’ art even before he saw his work.

“I felt like before I even saw his pieces, they were going to be about his experiences and more about making the work itself,” Eckmayer said.

Scrolls that were seen inside of the catacombs inspired him and the drawings he created.

One student found him stepping out of his comfort zone an inspiration.

Cydne Garrett, a junior marketing major

and a studio art minor, said she thought Mills experienced unique moments while visiting these ancient places.

“It was really interesting to me because he had a unique experience as an artist. Not many artists get to go into sacred places like the catacombs in Europe,” Garrett said. “That’s what makes his art work so different, and it is very rare that you will find artwork that is seen firsthand.”

The experiences he went through and explained helped the audience understand his

work. Because he had different experiences while in the catacombs, he was able to convey these same experiences in his work.

He used different vibrant colors, while making his work look 3D in certain pieces.

Mills’ current exhibition is located in Tarble and will continue to be shown until Oct. 25.

Meka Al Taqi-Brown can be reached at 581-2812 or mrbrown7@eiu.edu.

Student Senate completes first meeting of semester

By Jihad Abbed
Associate News Editor | @Jehada

Eastern’s Student Senate welcomed 30 members Wednesday during its first meeting of the semester in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The members in attendance were both new and returning students, including graduate and transfers.

The meeting was ran as more of an orientation for the new combination of members. The executive board split the senators into three groups where they discussed how senate operates during meetings, rules and legislation, how to dress appropriately and outreach.

The senators went around the room introducing themselves and explaining why they chose to get involved.

Junior communication studies major Keith Teague was the president of the Black Student Association at Lewis & Clark Community

College before transferring to Eastern.

“I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and to be a voice for those students who really don’t have a voice. Just make the college a better place,” Teague said.

He said he would like to move up and become an executive member of the senate.

Student body president Shirmeen Ahmad said she was influenced to join senate by the noticeable force student government had at Eastern.

“I felt the power of student government all over campus,” Ahmad said. “They were doing things and making a difference on campus. I wanted to be one of those people to actually get involved and help make that difference.”

Ahmad said sometimes the differences made are sometimes beneficial to students even when they do not realize it.

The newest members are expected to still be confused with the process of senate this early in the semester Ahmad said, but she was happy

“I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and to be a voice for those students who really don’t have a voice. Just make the college a better place.”

-Keith Teague, junior communication studies major

with the way orientation played out Wednesday evening.

“We’ve kind of tried to ignite the passion today,” Ahmed said. “We chose the senators that

are going to work and going to be accountable, and have that light seeing Eastern for what it can be, not what it’s missing.”

She said it was exciting to see the new members who seemed eager to get involved more than just being a member of student senate.

She said a collective goal of the senate is to get the name of student government out more by accomplishing as much as possible.

Ahmed thinks it is important for the senate to be very active given the state of the university.

“We’re going to start being a force on campus,” Ahmed said. “Things happen out of our control, but that doesn’t mean we can’t play a part in them.”

The senators will be sworn in when the senate next meets Sept. 9 at 7 p.m.

Jihad Abbed can be reached at 581-2812 or Jaabbed@eiu.edu

It’s that time of year again!

Senior Portraits

Sept 28 - Oct 9
2522 Buzzard Hall
Journalism Conference Room
Second Floor

Go to **laurenstudios.com** to make your appointment
School Passcode: Panthers

Please dress appropriately



Liz Dowell

Be yourself, forget what others think

Today, I'm going to talk about being a complete nerd.

Yep, I said it, I am a complete nerd, and not just about Marvel fandom or the four major anime series (Naruto, Inuyasha, One Piece, or Bleach).

No, I am talking about how much of a nerd I am about Silent Hill, Harry Potter, Tim Burton everything and photography.

Now, being a nerd is not a bad thing, and with this growing "geek chic" trend growing, it is hard to tell who is in for life and who is in just to impress the opposite sex.

Unfortunately for me, I am in it for life.

It has not always been this good for me. I used to be the weird kid who no one would want to talk to because I would be the one who would go too hard on high school "crazy day" during Homecoming week and show up in something full costume, while others would just put more make-up on or show up in PJs.

I have always been a nerd, if that just meant me reading in my room, re-reading my favorite series over again and acting out scenes in my room or trying to figure out better scenarios for my favorite characters.

It was not until I was introduced to my gateway anime, Naruto, and the Internet that I realized there were websites out there that would allow you to write fanfiction. (Fan based fiction about characters that do not belong to you).

After being introduced to fanfiction, then fandoms (a group of people who love the same book/series/anime/what have you, that you do and share the same passion for it) that I found cosplay. After I found cosplay my normal life of being the "quiet bookworm" in class turned into "being the creepy dress up nerd" in class.

And I was all right with that.

When I was in my small hometown I got a lot of flack for how I acted, that I was not "normal" because I did not want to do the basic mudding, and drinking on the weekends.

But then again no one invited me anyway because I was the weird girl dressing up as anime characters.

But this weird girl grew up and became even more of a nerd. Coming to Eastern campus helped me find other people who enjoyed the same things I do.

I am even Vice President of EIU war Battle Club. It is kind of like Live Action Role Play, but we only LARP on Halloween. We have a meeting Thursdays and Fridays at 6p.m.

I was actually working on a new cosplay before I came into work to day. So around Halloween, well let's be realistic, or as soon as I'm done, and you see a nurse demon from Silent Hill twitching around campus, it's probably me.

Do not let anyone kill your flame because they do not understand you. Keep being you and eventually you will find your group. I did.

Liz Dowell is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or ehdowell@eiu.edu

Super Senior Citizen



CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Staff Editorial

Eastern should prevent 'super' seniors

Earlier this week, *The Daily Eastern News* ran an article about the fabled and dreaded "super senior," which many students, try as they might, have succumbed to the title more so in recent years.

The theory is, students should graduate from their universities in four years, ideally spending two years studying general education courses and then the remainder of the college experience in whatever major chosen.

However, the reality is only 19 percent of students in public universities nationwide are able to do this, according to an article in *The New York Times*.

Students are actually taking five or even six years, so what's the hold up?

Many things are. Some classes are only offered in a certain semester.

People change majors at the last min-

ute and the age-old story of human error—advisers at times have overshot graduation dates causing students to stay longer because they forgot about a specific requirement.

One such reason could be the requirements for a degree have changed and the university may have added an additional course or two, which could mean the difference between just an extra class or another semester.

Many of the students reported in the story they were staying an extra semester or even year at Eastern because of one of the reasons previously mentioned.

The graduation system seems a little suspicious, because in order to actually finish in four years, students would have to take 15 credit hours a semester, which is five classes, not fail a single one and be sure to

be following their degree layout to a T.

To be blunt, that costs more money, but it is even more expensive to stay an extra year or semester so some students go as far as taking the maximum amount of 18 credits hours, or six classes to get out on time.

All studying and no partying leaves a student very dry and borderline psychotic.

Eastern should work a little harder at getting students out into the real world and let them commit to the four-year graduation promise that is now a myth.

Eastern needs to re-brand; not many universities can actually graduate their students in four years, but that doesn't mean our school should be on that list.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Don't worry about being 'forever alone'

People drop the phrase "die alone" into conversation like it's the worst thing that could ever happen to someone.

More recently, Internet memes have started preying on people's fear of being "forever alone," as if that were a death sentence.

Sure, humans are social creatures, and solitary confinement is arguably one of the cruellest forms of punishment that's still used today.

But when people throw around these phrases, they aren't talking about being isolated from all human contact, as the words themselves would imply.

They are talking about going through life without a significant other, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend, husband or wife, or whatever term people have most recently started using to claim other human beings as exclusively their own.

Stop to think about the logic behind this fear before using lines like these, because the idea that not having a romantic partner equals "dying alone" can cripple someone's ability to enjoy life.

Let's say I'm at the ripe old age of 107, and death is banging down my door like an angry bill collector.

Let's also say in my entire 107 years of life that I never experienced any type of romantic relationship.

Death finally loses patience and busts through the front window, and I'm done for. Does that mean I "died alone"?

Most of the people I knew in my youth would probably be long gone, but there's no way I could have lived 107 entire years without



Stephanie Markham

gathering some friends, neighbors or acquaintances to root for me toward the end.

My 107 years of life experiences would not be wasted just because there was no ring on my decrepit finger.

Personally, I laugh at the idea that "forever alone" (translated: forever single) is a death sentence.

I went through my entire high school career without dating, and as of yet, my college career has been the same.

I figure after reading that sentence, some of you probably glanced at my staff picture accompanying this column and tried to judge exactly what is "wrong" with me that I've been single for so long.

And as you can probably guess by my tone, I couldn't care less what anyone thinks about my relationship status.

People who put that much thought into what

I'm doing probably have more "wrong" with them anyway.

Being "single" as in not having a romantic partner does not mean someone is a single solitary person cut off from any sort of fulfilling socialization.

While having a romantic partner can be a great life experience, finding one shouldn't be someone's life goal because that requires relying on another person to be happy. Better life goals involve self-exploration, improvement and accomplishment.

A romantic partner certainly can be a part of all that, but none of the latter goals require one to be reached.

You're never going to actually be alone even if you sometimes feel like it because of the societal pressure for everyone to pair off.

If you don't want to be "forever alone," then don't commit a violent crime, get sent to prison and then commit more violent crimes in prison. Because the only conceivable way you'll go the whole rest of your life being truly alone is if you are sentenced to solitary confinement.

If you do find yourself laughing at one of the "forever alone" memes, laugh at the idea that living independently makes you any less of a person, or that being alone is even possible in a world of 7 billion people.

Stephanie Markham is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or samarkham@eiu.edu

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Have an ‘ice’ day



CHYNNA MILLER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ashley Howard, a senior communication studies major, gives Phil Love, a senior political sciences major, a sno cone as apart of their annual fall event for the Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc. Wednesday outside of Coleman Hall. “It’s a just a free treat to help the campus cool down,” Howard said.

» CONSULATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We understand that there’s so much potential for us to have a greater and deeper relationship with China, but as we speak right now the Chinese Celebration event at the end of World War II is demonstrating the military strength, so how should we make sense of that direction in an event like that?” Lee asked.

Zhao said Celebration was not to celebrate military strength.

“We believe it is very significant for the whole world to remember the past history,” he said.

Foster Rinefort, a retired MBA director, brought up an article from *The Wall Street Journal* reporting the second serious chemical explosion in China.

Rinefort is writing on China, sparking several questions for Zhao.

“The Chinese government indicated there were 68,000 work deaths in China last year,” he said. “The United Nations and the World Health Organization indicated that number was twice as high. So what ever happened to the other 70,000 Chinese who were killed in work injuries last year?”

Zhao replied saying he did not have any statistics to provide, and the statistic was a surprise to him as well.

“I want to say that as a developing country, especially with such a high gross rate, the work safety is indeed a problem in China and we need to reorganize our efforts to address their problem,” Zhao said.

Cassie Buchman can be reached at 581-2812 or cjbuchman@eiu.edu

Underrepresented students find resources in TRiO

By T’Nerra Butler
Multicultural Editor | @DEN_News

With the many resources at the tip of students’ fingers, TRiO is a support service built on assisting students who fit into three categories.

TRiO offers assistance to students academically and pushes to increase graduation rates. To become eligible for TRiO, students have to have a low-income status, be the first generation in their family to go to college, or have a disability.

Lynn Griesemer, TRiO’s office support specialist, said it is important for students to have a facility where they feel supported academically and mentally.

Griesemer said one reason TRiO was created was to help students with parents who did not receive a bachelor’s degree. She said the program helps them persist toward higher-level education.

Jazmine Thompson, a graduate assistant for

TRiO, was part of the program and said many programs are geared toward first-generation college students, low income students or students with disabilities.

“To have a particular program that works with these students is really important because they are underrepresented,” Thompson said. “It’s important to bring light to their needs and to have those resources for them to help them become successful.”

Thompson said students who come from parents with money are not the only students who have goals. She said TRiO has resources for them and because of the load placed on students the program can be an escape when things get hectic.

Briana Keller, a sophomore health studies major, said she applied because she heard about the scholarship opportunities through TRiO. Keller said she was in Gateway her first year, and TRiO is a way to transition her into the next

steps of college.

“In Gateway there are advisers, and people who are constantly helping you whenever they can,” Keller said. “With TRiO, I am still able to have the extra push and support from others just in case I need it.”

Shanieka Tolliver, a graduate student, was in the program and said TRiO helped to shape the person she is today. She said the program helped her through her transition from two-year college to a university.

Tolliver also said the best thing about being in TRiO was being able to meet who she could relate to.

“I wanted to meet people that were the first generation in their family,” Tolliver said. “Being able to have that experience and talk to them about the trials we faced throughout high school and college was great.”

Tolliver said her fellow members in TRiO continued to uplift and push one another to

move forward in life.

Maggie Burkhead, the director of TRiO, said the program also offers support to non-traditional students as well. She said TRiO has no age limit, and in the past, someone who was 50 years old applied and got in.

“There are students that are parents, married and are not the traditional student who is coming straight out of high school,” Burkhead said. “As long as they are an undergraduate student and are eligible for TriO they’ll be considered.”

Burkhead said because many African-American students join, students think the program is targeted toward just them, which is not true. She said TRiO has around 130 students in the program she is now recruiting to acquire 175.

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Saalfrank heads back to court after injury

By Sean Hastings
Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN_Sports

After suffering a major injury in the last match of the 2014 Ohio Valley Conference volleyball tournament, senior outside hitter/setter Abby Saalfrank has made her way back on the court in 2015 with her teammates.

In the final match of the 2014 OVC tournament against Belmont in the semifinals, Saalfrank jumped up to swing at the ball and came down ‘funny’ on her left leg and tore her ACL, MCL and her meniscus.

Saalfrank’s injury took a lot of time to heal and also required multiple surgeries.

Her recovery took around nine months, she said.

“It was around Thanksgiving when it happened,” Saalfrank said. “I didn’t have surgery until the end of the year. I ended up having to have another surgery in May.”

Saalfrank’s second surgery required her to do a lot of rehab if she wanted to get back on the court by the start of the 2015 season.

To get back to being able to play, Saalfrank had to do strengthening exercises and getting full range of motion exercises.

“I got into jumping right away even though my vertical wasn’t very good,” Saalfrank said. “Then I finished therapy, and I was kind of on my own.”

For any athlete who deals with an injury, sitting out is not fun. For Saalfrank, the mental aspect of it all was also really tough.

“I think the mental aspect was tough, having to sit and watch all the girls go through the spring season together, and it was tough not being here in the summer,” Saalfrank said.

During the summers, the team usually comes to Eastern to work out and prepare for the upcoming season but with her injury, it was not possible for Saalfrank.

She decided that it was best that she stayed at home the whole summer to keep rehabbing her knee.

The rest of the girls on the team knew how Saalfrank was feeling dealing with her injury and were all there



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior right-side hitter Abby Saalfrank recorded nine kills during the Panthers’ 3-1 home-opening loss to Indiana State on Tuesday.

for her.

“They’ve been really supportive throughout the whole thing,” Saalfrank said.

She also said being at home and having her family by her side helping her get through it was a great help. Coaches Sam Wolinski and Peter Green also stayed in contact with her through spring season and even over the summer.

Wolinski said that she just kept checking in on her to let her know they all still believe in her and will do whatever they need to do to keep her ready.

After the second surgery the thought of not being ready for the start of the 2015 season came into her mind.

“That was a big struggle, not knowing if I was going to be able to come back,” Saalfrank said.

Saalfrank was cleared to return to the court just a few days before the team came back for preseason.

“I don’t think I’m there yet. But I think I’m closer as each day happens.”

-Abby Saalfrank,
Eastern Senior Volleyball player

The mental aspect of it all continued even after she was cleared to come back and play.

“I would get frustrated because I wasn’t playing as well as what I was at the end of last season,” Saalfrank said. “It’s still a daily struggle trying to keep in the back of my mind that I’ve only been cleared for four weeks and trying to get back in the swing of things after when I had taken like nine months off.”

Saalfrank’s return to the court right before preseason started was the first time she was in a gym and hitting a ball.

The Panthers have played four matches in the 2015 season and Saalfrank has played in all of them.

Wolinski said it is great to have her back on the court this year.

“She’s worked hard this summer to get herself ready to be on the court,” Wolinski said. “Knowing she could perform again at a high level last weekend gave her a lot of confidence.”

While she plays, even though she says she is not back at 100 percent, she said that she doesn’t really notice any problems with her knee. But Saalfrank is fighting to get back to her usual self.

“I think I’m getting closer each day,” Saalfrank said. “I don’t think I’m there yet. But I think I’m closer as each day happens.”

This is Saalfrank’s final season playing as a Panther, and her biggest goal for herself is to just get back to the level of play she knows she can play at.

She also wants to play a more dominant role on the court and make sure he team is successful come tournament time to complete the ultimate team goal of winning the OVC.

After the first four matches of the season Saalfrank has 30 kills and is averaging two kills per set.

Saalfrank’s journey back to 100 percent will continue when the Panthers head to the DePaul Invitational this weekend in Chicago.

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» HAWKINS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Every recipient that received the award has compiled a 4.0 grade point average, and she called this a huge honor.

“That’s why were called student-athletes,” Hawkins said. “It’s really important for us to not only perform well on the field but to perform well in the classroom too.”

Hawkins has played multiple sports

throughout her life, but started playing soccer really early in life at four or five years old.

Once she got to high school at Evansville North High School in Evansville, Ind., she had a successful career.

Hawkins earned all-conference and all city honors as a senior. She also earned academic all-city honors and

participated in the North vs. South All-Star game.

She remembers winning her sectional and going to regionals her senior year, and said that was the best memory she had of her high school career.

“There were only two seniors that year, and I was one of them,” Hawkins said. “It was a great feeling

to be apart of.”

Now that Hawkins is in the midst of her final season at Eastern, she wants to end her career knowing she gave it all she got out on the field.

“I came in as a freshman working hard,” Hawkins said. “I want to end as a senior and working hard throughout the whole season.”

For Hawkins, it was not all about

scoring goals.

“It’s nice to get goals, but it’d also be nice to see my team win and just see everyone leave to season happy,” she said.

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PHOTO BY JASON HOWELL

Hawkins wants to end final season on high note

By Bob Reynolds
Sports Editor | @BobReynoldsDEN

Eastern senior women's soccer player Molly Hawkins told herself in sixth grade that she was going to play college soccer.

Whether it was Division I, II or III, she had her mind set on playing soccer at the collegiate level.

Hawkins got off to a good start to her final season at Eastern Friday against Western Illinois, when she scored two goals, which earned her *The News'* sports sections' Athlete of the Week award, "Top Cat."

Those goals for Hawkins were her first goals since Sept. 14 of the 2013 season against Belmont, when she scored the overtime game-winner.

Hawkins said scoring those goals was a really cool feeling.

"I have always been a defensive player and haven't been much on the goal scoring end of the game," Hawkins said. "To switch positions and get on that end is exciting."

Hawkins' first goal came early in the first half against Western to tie the game at one from a pass from junior Kathleen MacKinnon.

She would give her team a 2-1 lead at the 45:20 mark of the second half.

Eastern soccer coach Jason Cherry changed Hawkins position in the game Friday from center midfield to center forward, and she played there Sunday as well.

Cherry expects Hawkins to stay in the

same position for the two games over the weekend.

Cherry said he did that to find someone that could give him a spark on the attack.

"I just saw Molly all week tucking the ball and scoring goal after goal in practice," Cherry said. "Molly could do that for us. That is what we were missing in our attack."

Hawkins has made 38 starts in her career at Eastern and played a career-high of 1,156 minutes in her sophomore season.

She played in all 19 matches last season, making 10 starts, but in her final season at Eastern, Hawkins said she considers herself as one of the leaders on the Panther soccer team.

"It's nice to be able to show the other girls how to work hard all the time no matter what position coach puts you in," Hawkins said. "I've played a defensive position all through college, and my senior year I am changing to forward. It's really different."

Eastern senior and teammate Hannah Miller said Hawkins is simply just a great teammate.

"She is very motivating, a hard worker and adaptable when moved to different positions," Hawkins said. "She communicates well, is assertive and positive."

Hawkins was one of 30 Eastern student-athletes that earned the Ohio Valley Conference Academic Medal of Honor last season.

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Panthers renew football rivalry with Western

By Blake Nash
Staff Reporter | @Banash5

An in-state rivalry will be reborn on a football field in Macomb on Thursday night. The Eastern football team will take on Western Illinois for the first game of the season.

Both teams finished the 2014 season with identical 5-7 records, and the similarities between the two teams doesn't end there.

"Obviously they are just like us. They've had to fill some holes, and we'll see how good they've filled those holes," Kim Dameron, football coach, said. "We've had to replace our run game with some new faces, and we know we're going into a pretty darn good defense."

The Panthers will have a familiar face in the backfield on Thursday. Red-shirt senior Shepard Little returns after being named as an All-Ohio Valley Conference first teamer in the offseason. Little feels that he, newcomer Devin Church and the other new faces in the Eastern backfield can attack the Western defense.

"I feel like me, Devin and everybody else who can touch the ball attack their defense," Little said. "Because we've got a bunch of guys who can play fast."

Dameron said he wants the Panthers to play fast, so that they can play as many plays as they can. The Leathernecks' size is another reason for Dameron wanting the Panthers to have an up-tempo style of play, but to do that they do some things on offense first.

"To play fast and make a lot of plays, you've got to be making first downs," Dameron said. "Offensively we've got to protect the football and we've got to make yards and score points."



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Former Southern Illinois-Carbondale running back Malcolm Agnew avoids the tackle by Eastern's defense in Eastern football's home opener on Sept. 6, 2014 at O'Brien Field.

Junior quarterback Trenton Norvell, who compiled 2,891 yards and 24 touchdowns last season, leads the Western Illinois offense. He had a career-high 29 completions last season at Northwestern, a team that Eastern will see this season.

Norvell will be joined in the Leatherneck offensive huddle by junior wide receiver Lance Lenoir. Lenoir was named to the Missouri Valley Conference first team last season, after recording 1,030 yards and seven touchdowns.

Dameron said there is not a particular defender who will be tasked with guarding Lenoir, but Eastern does have one defensive back that played with him in high school. The Panthers have to identify where he is on the field at all times.

"You just have to know where he is, the types of routes that he starts to run," Dameron said. "Then again they

may be moving him around more this year, than they did in the past."

But to determine what Lenoir's performance will be, the Panthers need to pressure his quarterback Norvell. Red-shirt senior defensive tackle Dino Fanti will be one of those players trying to pressure him.

"There's always a big emphasis on that, especially since they're a zone team," Fanti said. "You've got to rely on your defensive ends not to get kicked out (from the pocket). That's a big point that we're emphasizing in

"They'll play hard, but it's always hard when you go into that type of situation. It is what it is in college football these days."

**-Kim Dameron,
Eastern football coach**

practice."

Dameron said that there are many things the Panthers need to do to challenge Norvell. That includes affecting his feet as he delivers the ball, collapsing the pocket around him and containing him when starts to move.

"If we can do that we'll be success-

ful," Dameron said. "But if we can't do that then we're not going to have a good night."

Eastern is one of six teams in the Ohio Valley Conference that will not open the season with a Football Championship Subdivision team. Tennessee Tech will open the season at Houston on Sunday, while Tennessee-Martin and Southeast Missouri will be opening its seasons against a pair of ranked Southeastern Conference teams.

The Skyhawks will play No. 15 ranked Ole Miss, while the Redhawks will face in-state foe No. 23 ranked Missouri. The Panthers are familiar with Ole Miss, being that Defensive Coordinator Kane Wommack's father is the Rebel's defensive coordinator.

Dameron said that is a tough situation for any FCS school to walk into, but believes that the Skyhawks will give a great effort.

"Martin's got a pretty good football team coming back," Dameron said. "They'll play hard, but it's always hard when you go into that type of situation. It is what it is in college football these days."

Eastern will not play UT-Martin until Nov. 14, so its focus will be on Western Illinois this week, and playing a team that they haven't seen since the 2002 FCS playoffs.

"The two schools have great history and it goes back forever and ever, Dameron said. "We're looking forward to the contest."

Eastern Panther football will be opening on a Thursday night this year. This is the 16th time in school history this has happened. Eastern is 10-5 in those Thursday night openers.

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